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FORMER SC JUDGE ARUN MISHRA TO HEAD NHRC

Former Supreme Court judge Arun Kumar Mishra is slated to become the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, after his name was proposed by a selection panel, which included Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. However, senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, who was also part of the panel, has opposed the move, since he sought to appoint a member from either the Dalit, Adivasi or Minority communities.

Decision taken so as to end anxiety among students, parents and teachers, says Modi; most states, however, had suggested pen-and-paper test; CISCE board follows suit

CBSE CLASS XII BOARDS NIXED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Centre on Tuesday decided to scrap the Class XII CBSE board examinations this year, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying at a high-level meeting that the "health and safety of our students is of utmost importance and there would be no compromise on this aspect."

Evaluation of marks will be made based on an objective criterion prepared by the board in a time-bound manner, the government said but the formula was not released immediately.

Sources in the CBSE said there might be changes in the evaluation criteria it had proposed earlier, according to which results of Classes IX, X and XI, apart from internal assessments through Class XII, will be weighed in for scoring the students.

"It has now been decided that Class X results and internal assessment of Class XII alone will be taken into account for preparing the final results and the detailed criteria will be released soon," a senior CBSE official said. It has also been decided that for some of the students who may not be satisfied with the results, an option to write papers will be offered when the Covid situation is conducive.

The decision to cancel the board exams came even though all states and Union Territories — barring Delhi and Maharashtra — had given written consent for conducting the pen-and-paper mode tests.

The decision was taken after wide-ranging consultations, including a deliberation presided over by Modi and a second one by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"In view of the uncertain conditions due to Covid-19 and the feedback obtained from various stakeholders, it was decided that Class XII board exams would not be held this year. It was also decided that CBSE will take steps to compile the results of Class XII students as per a well-defined objective criterion in a time-bound manner," the PMO said in a statement.

The PM underlined that while the pandemic has affected the academic calendar, the issue of board examination has been causing immense anxiety among students, parents and teachers, which must be put to an end.

"The Covid situation is dynamic across the country. While the numbers are coming down in the country and some states are managing the situation through effective micro-containment, some have still opted for lockdowns," the PM was quoted as having said in the meeting.

"Students, parents and teachers are naturally worried about the health of the students in such a situation. Students should not be forced to appear for exams in such a stressful situation," he added in the meeting where apart from Rajnath Singh, other ministers like Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Prakash Javadekar, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan and Smriti Irani, and top officials were present.

Meanwhile, following the decision on the CBSE, the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, the country's largest private education board, also announced its decision to cancel its Class XII board (ISC) exam for this year.

POSSIBLE EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. One proposal doing the rounds earlier was for the CBSE to consider the results of classes IX, X and XI, apart from internal assessments in Class XII, to arrive at the final score so that this does not become a zero year
2. While there is no official word yet, CBSE might just take Class X results and internal assessment of Class XII into account for preparing the final results
3. Students who want the option of written tests will get it when the Covid situation improves

Health and safety... is of utmost importance.... In today's time, such exams cannot be the reason to put our youth at risk. All stakeholders need to show sensitivity for students - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

State yet to decide on PU exams

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru

After the Centre on Tuesday cancelled CBSE Class 12 board exams, Karnataka's Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar said the state will decide on cancelling the Second PU exams, which are conducted by the state PU Board, after considering the Covid situation here. During a meeting convened by the Union HRD Ministry on May 23, Kumar is said to have backed the idea of holding the Second PU exams, terming it beneficial for students. P2

RISING CHILD COVID PATIENT COUNT IN MAHARASHTRA ADDS TO WORRY

Mumbai: Covid infection among children is soaring in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar, the latest report by the state health department shows. As many as 9,416 positive cases among children below 18 years of age were reported from the district. In April, 757 cases were reported among children below five years.

'Flu shots for kids can cut rush at hospitals'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi / Bengaluru / Hyderabad

AMID concerns that children, who are not vaccinated against the coronavirus, might be the biggest casualty in the next pandemic wave, the Centre on Tuesday said it will soon issue guidelines for Covid-19 management in kids and prepare hospital infrastructure to face any influx of child patients.

However, Dr V K Paul, Niti Aayog member (health) and chairman of national Covid-19 task force, on Tuesday said that so far, only 2-3% of Covid-infected kids have required hospital care. Dr Paul, who himself is a paediatrician, averred that available scientific evidence suggests children are less susceptible to severe disease. He said the government is nevertheless prepared for any exigency. "We will strengthen our facilities as required and do an audit of what is required and what might be required in a worst-case scenario," he said.

According to public health expert Chandrakant Lahariya, serosurveys have shown prevalence of infection was similar across all age groups. "So, a large number of kids may have been affected already," he said. But not many kids became seriously ill. This is because unlike adults, children have smaller number of ACE 2 receptors, which the coronavirus uses to enter human cells, he added.

While some doctors have advocated flu shots for kids to guard against Covid, a senior paediatrician in AIIMS, Delhi said it may not be suitable for India. "The flu shots are prepared for influenza virus strains prevalent in Europe," he said. Expressing similar views, Dr Jagadish Chinappa, a consultant child specialist at Manipal Hospitals in Bengaluru, said vaccinating kids with flu shots will not protect them from the risk of Covid-19 infection. However, it will help avoid the confusion if the cough, cold and fever in children are due to Covid-19 or influenza. "The Indian Paediatric Society has recommended vaccinating children to only reduce the need for Covid testing, decrease the burden on the healthcare system and protect children from influenza and not because the flu shot will prevent Covid-19. They are two different vaccines," he added. P9

AID TO FARMERS

Aadhaar-based DBTs: K'taka nails it first

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA is the first state in the country to use the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System-based (APBS) Direct Benefit Transfers (DBTs) to beneficiaries, a large chunk of whom are farmers. "This DBT system uses Aadhaar number of the beneficiary as financial address instead of the bank account number, which was the practice earlier, leading to corruption, identity and benefit thefts," explained Additional Chief Secretary, DPAR (e-governance) Rajiv Chawla. "The scale at which Aadhar-based DBT is being used in the agriculture sector is unique to Karnataka," he added.

The senior IAS officer said that earlier, there was no mechanism in place to verify identity and bank details of the beneficiary. P7

NATIONWIDE	MAY 31	JUNE 1
Fresh cases	1,52,734	1,27,510
Recoveries	2,38,022	2,55,287
Deaths	3,128	2,795

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

May 31: 25,52,501 doses

June 1: 22,08,941 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 21,83,38,381

KARNATAKA	MAY 31	JUNE 1
Fresh cases	16,604	14,304
Recoveries	44,473	29,271
Deaths	411	464

"Each and every rupee of MGNREGA scheme is to be utilized for water conservation till monsoon starts"

- Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme - Karnataka

2 YEARS OF SUPPORT

guaranteed employment of 100 days to every house hold

₹ 289/- Wage Per day

The Government of India has released Rs. 11,654.21 cr for the implementation of MGNREGA in Karnataka.

After the covid pandemic, 8.3 lakh new job cards have been issued and 19.87 lakh workers have been freshly enrolled, 56.84 lakh individuals have worked under MGNREGA in Karnataka.

1,14,585 farm bunds, 97,535 farm ponds and 17,023 open wells are being built under a special Farmers Action Plan under MGNREGA.

957 Anganawadi centres and 133 Rural Godowns are completed since last two years.
2.7 Lakh Soak Pits constructed (FY 2020-21)

Rejuvenation of lakes, Kalyanis, construction of new water bodies are taken up under Jal Shakti Abhiyan (Catch the Rain)

Shri K. S. Eshwarappa
Hon'ble Minister for RDPR Inauguration of a rural garden

DIPR/RDPR/15/2021-22

For work / wage demand, visit your nearest Gram Panchayat Office or use Kayaka Mitra Mobile App

Or call toll free number
1800 4258666

Precautionary measures to prevent coronavirus infection are mandatorily followed in employment guarantee work place.
Two metre physical distancing, wearing mask, washing hands regularly with soap/sanitiser.

It is the duty of every citizen to protect and preserve the natural environment including forest, rivers, lakes, and wildlife.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene